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OPERATION BEACHHEAD

**HAMPTON BEACH MAN PLEADS GUILTY FOR
PERJURY BEFORE GRAND JURY**

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE: United States Attorney Tom Colantuono, NH State Police Colonel Gary Sloper and the Drug Enforcement Agency New England Field Division Special Agent in Charge Mark Trouville announced the guilty plea of John Joseph Clews age 49, of Hampton Beach, New Hampshire to a one-count indictment charging him with falsely testifying before a federal grand jury in U. S. District Court in Concord, NH. Clews pleaded guilty before Judge Steven McAuliffe at a hearing conducted today in U. S. District Court. A sentencing hearing before Judge McAuliffe is scheduled for October 28, 2003 where he faces a maximum fine of \$250,000.

This case is related to an investigation known as "Operation Beachhead" which investigated illegal drug trafficking and illegal drug use in food and drink establishments in the Hampton Beach and Nashua, NH areas. The indictment alleged that before a Federal Grand Jury, Clews falsely testified regarding whether he purchased cocaine from a subject of the related investigation.

In commenting on Clew's change of plea, U.S. Attorney Colantouno stated that: "This office takes a zero tolerance policy on witnesses perjuring themselves before Federal Grand Juries and consequently will prosecute perjurers to the full extent of the law."

The case was investigated by the New Hampshire State Police and the Drug Enforcement Administration's Mobile Enforcement Team in Boston. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Mark A. Irish and Clyde R.W. Garrigan.

